

READ OF THE STARK HORROR
TWO MEN FOUND IN A GAME OF
CUTTING CARDS!



THIS STORY IS PROBABLY THE MOST HORRIBLE,
BLOOD-CURDLING TALE YOU WILL EVER READ! IT
CONCERN'S TWO PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS... GUS
FORNEY AND LOU GREBIS! GAMBLERS... BIG-TIME
GAMBLERS LIKE GUS AND LOU... ARE IN A CLASS BY
THEMSELVES! GAMBLING IS THEIR *LIFE!* THE WAGER...
THE BET... IS THEIR *BLOOD!* BUT GUS FORNEY AND
LOU GREBIS HATED EACH OTHER... HATED EACH OTHER
LIKE POISON...

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH *ROOM*
IN THIS TOWN FOR *BOTH*
OF US, LOU!

I'M NOT LEAVING,
GUS! SO, GOOD-BYE...
GET ON YOUR HORSE...

I MEAN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH
ROOM IN THIS *WHOLE*
WORLD FOR *BOTH* OF US,
LOU! AND I'M WILLIN'
TO GAMBLE TO SEE
WHO LEAVES IT!

YOU'RE *BLUFFING*,
GUS! OKAY! YOU'RE
ON! SHALL WE DRAW?
HIGH CARD *WINS!* THE
LOSER *DIES!* THE
CHOICE OF METHOD
IS HIS!





GUS STARED DOWN AT THE CARDS FANNED OUT BEFORE HIM! THE ODDS WERE SIXTEEN TO ONE AGAINST HIS PICKING ONE OF THE THREE REMAINING AGES! HE SPUN A CARD OVER...

WHY, YOU LUCKY
@#X!!?B!!

HEH, HEH! ACE, LOU!
SHALL WE DRAW AGAIN?



NO! I GOT A SIMPLER METHOD! GET YOUR REVOLVER! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A GAME OF RUSSIAN ROULETTE!

OKAY, LOU!
YOU'RE ON...



GUS TOOK HIS REVOLVER FROM THE DRAWER AND REMOVED ALL BUT ONE BULLET FROM ITS SIX CHAMBERS...

WE GO IN SEQUENCE...
ALTERNATING! I'LL
GO FIRST!

OKAY WITH
ME, GUS! I'LL
SPIN THE
CHAMBER!



LOU TOOK THE SIX-SHOT REVOLVER AND TWIRLED THE CHAMBER...

THERE! SHE'S STOPPED SPINNING! NOW REMEMBER! ONE AFTER THE OTHER...TILL SHE GOES OFF!



GUS TOOK THE REVOLVER! HE LIFTED THE BARREL TO HIS TEMPLE! THE ODDS WERE FIVE TO ONE...



CLICK!



GUS HANDED THE GUN
TO LOU! LOU PLACED
THE MUZZLE AGAINST
HIS HEAD! ODDS NOW...
FOUR TO ONE...



CLICK!



GUS TOOK THE GUN!
BEADS OF PERSPIRATION
BEGAN TO POP OUT ON
THE TWO GAMBLERS'
FACES! GUS POINTED
THE REVOLVER! ODDS...
THREE TO ONE...





LOU TOOK THE GUN! THERE WERE
THREE SHOTS LEFT NOW!
ONE OF THEM HAD THAT BULLET!
ODDS... TWO TO ONE...



LOU SIGHED IN RELIEF AND MOPPED HIS BROW! GUS'S HAND SHOOK A LITTLE AS HE RAISED THE GUN! HE HESITATED! IT WAS EVEN MONEY, NOW! HIS FINGER TWITCHED... THEN CLOSED ...



GUS GRINNED! LOU STARED AT THE GUN! THE ODDS HAD RUN OUT! THE BULLET WAS LEFT! GUS HANDED THE WEAPON OVER...



LOU LIFTED THE GUN AND STEELED HIMSELF FOR THE DEATH BLOW AS THE BULLET CAME CRASHING INTO HIS BRAIN! HE SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER...

CLUNK!



**WHAT?
IT... IT
DIDN'T GO
OFF!**

A... A DUD! WHY, YOU DIRTY Q#!!X?
YOU KNEW IT ALL THE TIME! THAT'S
WHY YOU WANTED TO GO FIRST! YOU
THOUGHT I'D CRAWL ...



DON'T BE AN
IDIOT, LOU! YOU
TWIRLED THE
CHAMBER!
HOW DID I
KNOW IT
WOULD COME
UP LAST?

YOU CAN'T TALK
YOUR WAY OUT OF
THIS ONE, 'GUS!
NO MATTER WHEN
IT CAME UP, YOU
HAD A SURE
THING!

ARE YOU ACCUSING
ME... GUS FORNEY, HEAR? LUCKY
OF CHEATING? I'M AN
HONEST

YOU CAN
HEAR! LUCKY
GAMBLER OR I'D
NEVER HAVE FOUND
OUT! BUT I NEVER
WELSH WHEN I
LOSE!

OKAY, GREBIS! IF YOU'RE
SUCH A BIG-SHOT
GAMBLER... THEN
YOU'LL ACCEPT MY
CHALLENGE!

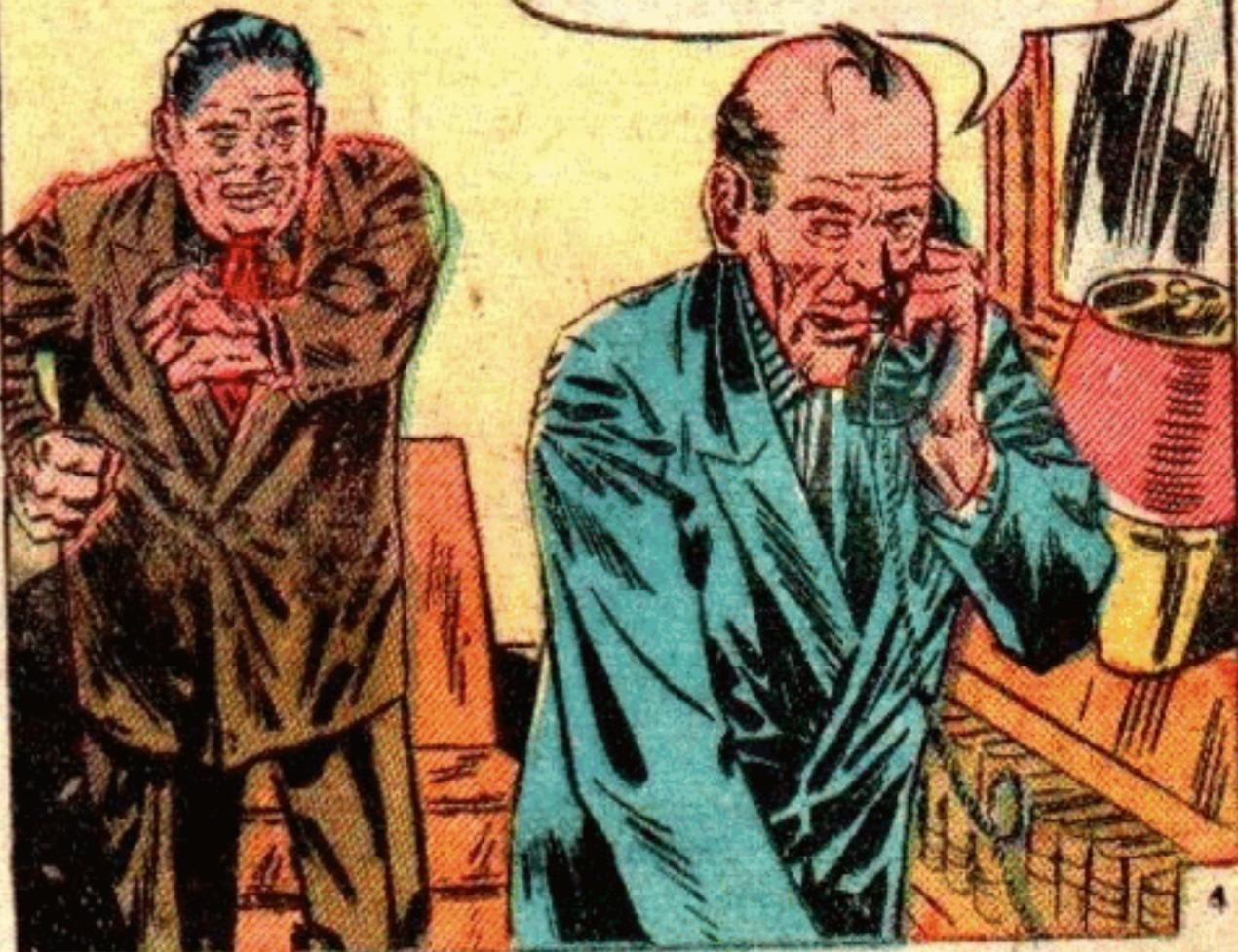
YOU JUST
NAME
IT!

NOBODY GALLS CUS FORNEY A
CHEAT! GREBIS...I CHALLENGE
YOU TO A GAME OF
CHOP-POKER!

OKAY, YOU
GRUM! YOU'RE
ON!

**TO A
FINISH!**

**TO A FINISH!
CALL YOUR DOCTOR!
I'LL GET MINE!**



THEN, FIENDS, BEGAN THE MOST HORRIBLE CARD GAME IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN GAMBLING! YOU'VE HEARD OF STRIP POKER? WELL, CHOP POKER IS ALMOST LIKE THAT! ONLY INSTEAD OF LOSING AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING... YOU LOSE A LIMB! CHOP POKER HAD BEEN PLAYED BEFORE... IT WAS TOLD... BUT ONLY ONE HAND AT A TIME! NEVER... TO A FINISH!



THEY SAT AT THE GREEN FELT-COVERED TABLE BENEATH THE GLARING LAMP! THE MEAT CLEAVER SPARKLED BETWEEN THEM! GUS DEALT THE CARDS...



I GOT THREE TENS, LOU!

SORRY, GUS! THREE LADIES!



LOU PICKED UP THE CLEAVER AND STOOD OVER GUS...

WHICH ONE, GUS?

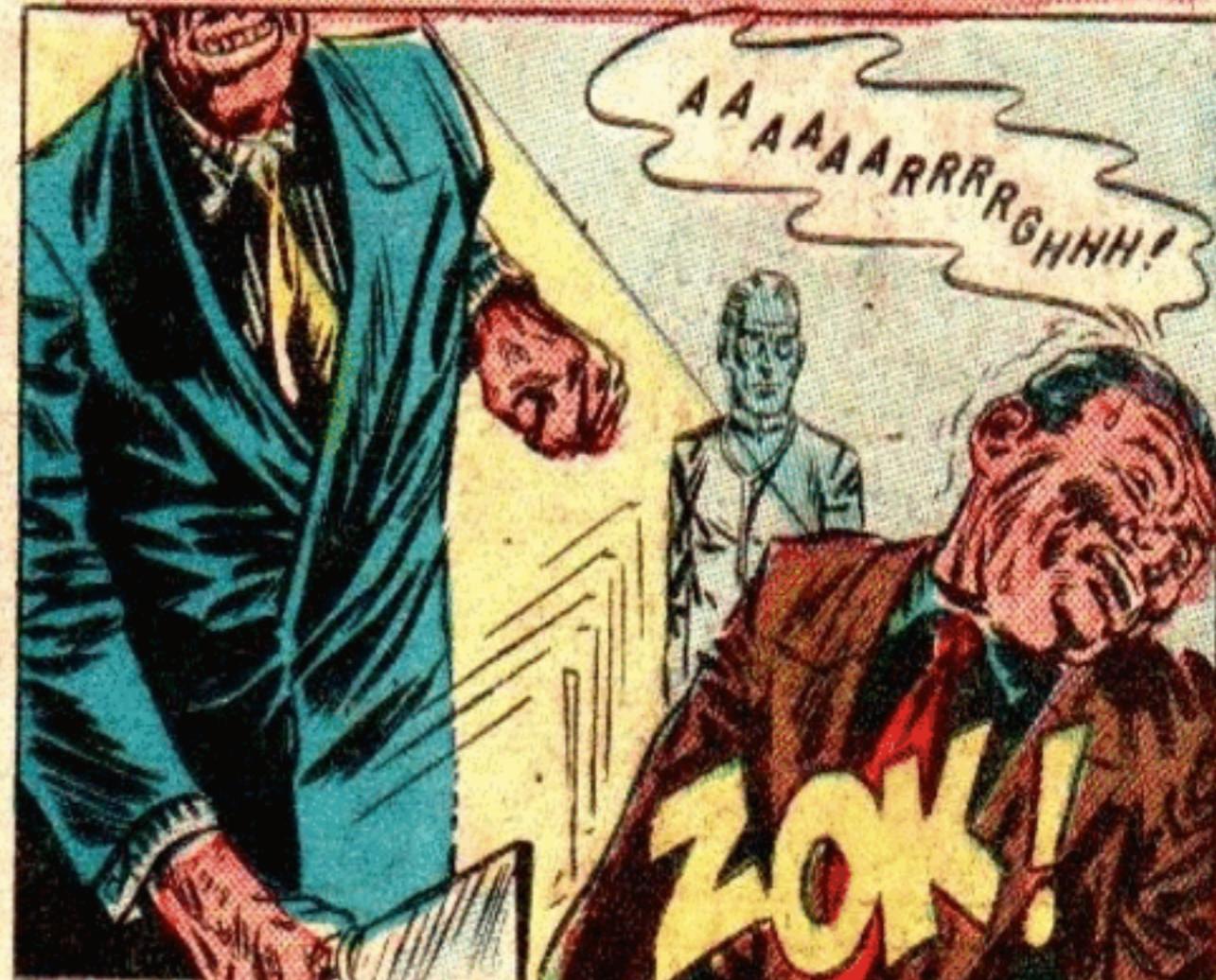
THE PINKY...CHOKE...
LOU!



GUS STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND! HIS PERSONAL DOCTOR MOVED FORWARD INTO THE LIGHT! LOU RAISED THE CLEAVER AND BROUGHT IT DOWN...

AAAAAAARRRRGHHH!

ZOK!



IT WAS LIKE A FIENDISH DUEL! THE DOCTORS WERE
THE SECONDS! TIME WAS TAKEN OUT WHILE GUS'S
SECOND SERVICED HIM! THE BANDAGE WAS BLOTTCHED
RED WHEN THEY BEGAN AGAIN...

YOUR DEAL, LOU!

CUT!



GUS PICKED UP THE GLEAVER IN HIS GOOD HAND!
LOU'S SECOND MOVED INTO THE LAMPLIGHT...

WHICH ONE, LOU?

THE...THE
PINKY...GUS!



LOU STRETCHED OUT HIS LEFT HAND! GUS TOOK
CAREFUL AIM...

UUUUNNGHHHH!



AGAIN TIME WAS TAKEN OUT WHILE LOU'S SECOND
SERVICED HIM! SOON, THE CARDS WERE SHUFFLED
ONCE MORE...

LET'S GO, GUS!
YOU DEAL!

CUT, IM,
LOU!



HEH, HEH! YEP, KIDDIES! THAT'S HOW THE GAME WAS
PLAYED! IT CONTINUED ON LIKE THAT... FAR INTO
THE NIGHT! AS EACH HAND WAS PLAYED AND WON...

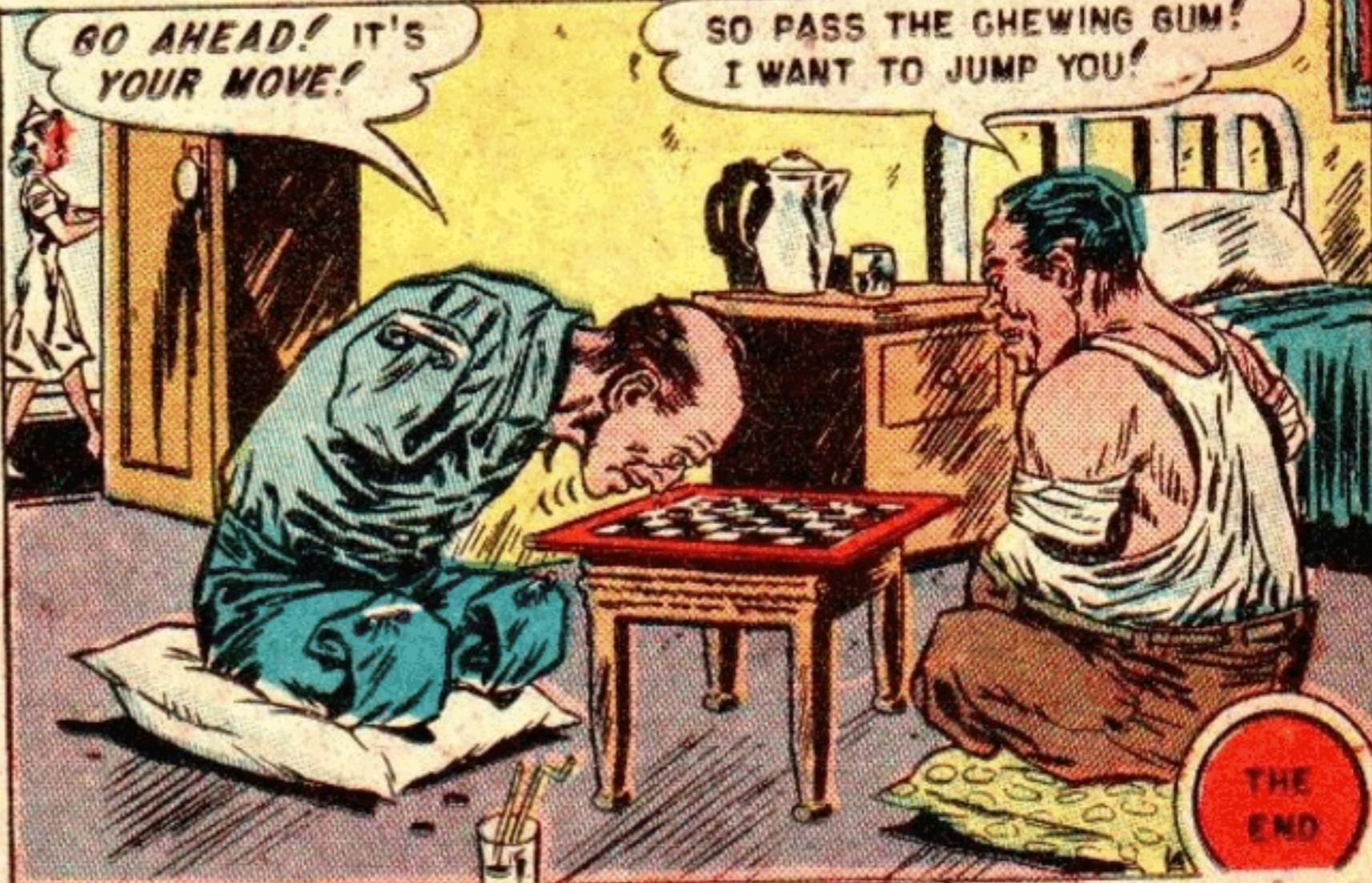
OOOOOWWWWWWW!



BUT LOU AND GUS NEVER DID
PLAY CHOP POKER TO A
FINISH! OH, YES! THEY PLAYED
ALL NIGHT AND INTO THE NEXT
DAY! BUT THEY HAD TO QUIT
TOWARDS EVENING! SEEKS THAT
NEITHER OF THEM COULD
DEAL THE CARDS!



WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WELL, LET'S LOOK IN ON THIS
HOSPITAL ROOM! LOU AND GUS ARE IN THERE...STILL GAMBLING...



THE
END